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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

*Application for 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty Program

Dear Ms. Fernandez,

As the Congressman for New Jersey's Ninth Congressional District, I am pleased to offer my support for the application that New Jersey Transit (NJT) has submitted to the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program. This application is requesting **\$850,000.00** in funding to acquire information about a potential Passaic-Paterson Bus Network. **This application is a high priority for funding in 2023 in the Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey.**

NJT is requesting federal assistance to fund a Passaic-Paterson Bus Network Study. The proposed project is a part of NJT's 2020 10-year Strategic Plan to connect at least 40% of New Jersey residents with high-frequency transit service by 2030. I understand this specific project seeks to conduct a market study analysis of the bus network in the cities of Passaic and Paterson, two major urban areas in Passaic County. The goal of the project is to collect and analyze all service, ridership, and regional demographic data necessary to advance a redesign effort. The project is expected to consist of studying the existing bus services in the region, including an operational analysis of the current performance. This is expected to entail a regional study of ridership trends, existing regional studies and plans, and destinations and commuting patterns. All these findings should be summed up in a report that would provide recommendations for a complete bus network design. This project would play a role in increasing transit access and reducing congestion in this urban area and supporting economic growth..

New Jersey, and in particular Passaic County which I represent, is one of the most densely populated areas in the United States. The cities of Passaic and Paterson are home to nearly a quarter of a million people who commute each and every day. With effective public transportation, we can empower thousands to enter and exit the city, to find work and reinvigorate the local economy. NJT provides easy, trusted, and affordable bus rides to open opportunities to those who do not have the luxury of driving.

I deeply understand how important efficient public transportation systems can improve the lives of my constituents. The cities of Paterson and Passaic are areas that need extra attention, and the urgency to provide a comprehensive bus system for its citizens should not be overlooked.

I am pleased to support NJ Transit's application and respectfully ask that you provide full and fair consideration upon their request, within the boundaries of applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Pascrell, Jr." in a cursive style.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress